



## NAVAJO DIVISION OF HEALTH

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### 2011 Regional Tribal Consultation on Navajo

**Window Rock, AZ; April 15, 2011**-This year will be a historic occasion for the Navajo Nation when the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Regional Tribal Consultation will be held in Window Rock. The first meeting day is on April 26<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and invitations were sent by DHHS officials to Navajo Nation Tribal Leaders, Health Board members, and Tribal, Federal and State Officials to participate in the Tribal Consultation.

"The DHHS Regional Tribal Consultation sessions are designed to solicit tribal priorities and needs on health and human services and programs. The sessions provide an opportunity for Tribes to convey their comments and concerns on budgets, policy, legislations and DHHS health and human services initiatives from the Obama administration," said Navajo Division of Health, Acting Division Director, Roselyn Begay.

The Navajo Nation has participated in three separate DHHS Regional Tribal Consultation Sessions over the past seven years due to its sheer size, the Navajo Nation extends into three federal administrative regions, including Region 6, Region 8 and Region 9.

"A unique feature of this year's Navajo Regional Federal Tribal Consultation Session is gathering the Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President, three Navajo Divisions including Health, Dine Education and Social Services to closely coordinate with DHHS and majority of its eleven operating divisions and agencies, including Indian Health Service and three states," Begay said at a planning conference call with Tribal Staff and Federal Officials. A day of site visits on Navajo is also planned which will occur a day following the Tribal Consultation Session for federal officials to see first-hand various programs operated with federal funds and resources.

Topics of the DHHS Navajo Regional Tribal Consultation range from the much debated Affordable Care Act; Indian Health Care Improvement Act implementation; Tribal, Federal and State Relations; Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Issues; Head Start, Child Care Development, Development Disability and TANF Issues; and Aging, Veterans and Special Population.

Some priorities of the DHHS Secretary Sebelius are: transformation of health care, implementation of the Recovery Act, promotion of Early Childhood Health and Development, to help Americans achieve and maintain healthy weight, Prevention and Reduction of Tobacco Use, to protect the health and safety of Americans in public health emergencies, to accelerate the process of scientific discovery to improve patient care, implement a 21<sup>st</sup> century food safety system and ensure program integrity and responsible stewardship.

For more information on the DHHS Tribal Consultation Policy of 2010 visit:

<http://www.hhs.gov/intergovernmental/tribal/tcp.htm1>